Wednesday, December 21, 2011 ★★ 12 sections / Vol. 27 / No. 13 P18 | www.inquirer.net | Mobile Alert: Text INQ ON BREAKING to 4467



PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

HEAVY BURDEN Navy personnel load about 500 coffins on the BRP Dagupan for shipment to the cities of Cagayan de Oro and Iligan on Tuesday due to arrive there on Christmas Eve. Coffinmakers in Sto. Tomas, Pampanga, worked through the night to build the coffins. The Navy ship is also bringing drinking water, clothes and other relief goods for survivors of the disaster.

Why dead dumped at landfill in CDO

By Inquirer Mindanao

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—After making the rounds of funeral parlors for three days, college student Christine Dalay's search for her mother finally ended yesterday—in a garbage dump. There, on top of a heap of garbage, lay the missing 48-year-old woman.

"It's really painful," Dalay said on seeing her mother dumped like garbage in the sanitary landfill. "I took good care of her when she was still alive. I can't go near the bodies because I didn't want to see my mother looking like that."

An Inquirer check showed there were at least 30 bodies in the dump, exposed to the elements and swarming with flies.

Mayor Vicente Emano has ordered that the bodies which overwhelmed funeral parlors could no longer accept be

Christmas rush to give

Palparan ordered arrested; no bail set

By Carmela Reyes-Estrope and Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

CITY OF MALOLOS—A Bulacan judge issued a warrant for the arrest of retired Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan Jr. late on Monday afternoon, a few hours after the kidnapping with serious illegal detention case against him was raffled off to her court.

Judge Teodora Gonzales of Bulacan Regional Trial Court Branch 14 signed the arrest warrant for Palparan and three other military officers at 4:30 p.m. after she finished evaluating the case documents, Executive Judge Renato Francisco said yesterday. The case



GRIEF AND RELIEF President Aquino distributes relief packages to flood victims at Iligan National High School on Tuesday. The President earlier visited Cagayan de Oro City. He also stopped at Dumaguete City.

Aid pours in for storm victims, survivors

By Vali Contreras, Jorame Ating and Norman Bordadora

A UNIQUE Christmas rush is on: The rush to give to the victims and survivors of Tropical Storm "Sendong."

Aid has steadily poured in for the thousands still reeling from the unprecedented flash floods that struck Northern Mindanao and parts of the Visayas last week, a national tragedy that has moved many to tone down their Yuletide revelry and extend their gift-giving to the grieving and the homeless.

At the Inquirer main office in Makati City yesterday, a bemedalled athlete walked in to donate a check for P130,000 to the newspaper's relief drive.

Apryl Eubenice Eppinger, a sprint cyclist who won two silver medals and a bronze at the recent Southeast Asian Games in Jakarta, went straight to the Inquirer just hours after getting the check from Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp.

The amount, she said, represented the government in-

P-Noy: I know gov't could have done more

By Norman Bordadora

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—President Aquino yesterday declared a state of national calamity and vowed to mobilize assistance for victims of the worst storm to hit his presidency.

"I need to ask myself: Did the government do enough to prevent this kind of a tragedy? I don't think I can accept that we have done everything," Mr. Aquino told evacuees at Cagayan de Oro Central School during a lightning visit to the disaster zone four days after Tropical Storm "Sendong" struck. "I know we could have done more."

The President himself has been criticized for attending a Christmas Party for his Presidential Security Group on Saturday as Sendong rampaged across Mindanao and the Visayas, igniting flash floods and causing

Read, heed geo-hazard maps: 'We're building in harm's way' / A18

I wish I were the one who died, says ma

By DJ Yap

ILIGAN CITY—The mother was clutching her 4-year-old son, Jomari, with one arm and clinging tightly to a banana tree with the other when she felt the life go out of him. He vomited once, slackened, and was gone.

In the blink of an eye, Joan Valdez's world crumbled, and not even the muddy torrents of Tropical Storm "Sendong" could stop her tears from falling. "I just cried and cried while I held him," she said in Cebuano.

But there were other sources of grief.

Her second child, 2-year-old Jomkin, turned up dead hours after the surging waters separated them late on Friday.



THE BADLANDS Residents gather cut logs amid the debris that litter the coastal villages of Iligan City—almost 5-km long, Iligan City Mayor Lawrence L. Cruz told Radyo Inquirer—following the deadly flash flood spawned by Tropical Storm "Sendong" on Saturday.



Pagasa wants telcos to send storm alerts

By TJ Burgonio

AS THE finger-pointing escalates over who's to blame for the catastrophe left by Tropical Storm "Sendong," a weather forecaster has proposed a novel idea: Why don't mobile phone companies send out free weather forecasts to save more lives?

Since the weather bureau could only do so much in disseminating weather updates, forecaster Jori

Second FrontPage

WEATHER FORECAST

EZ2		
11AM	20	21
4PM	28	10
9PM	23	4

SUERTRES			
11AM	5	0	2
4PM	7	7	3
9PM	5	6	0

SIX DIGIT: 3 3 0 1 0 8

6/42 LUZ-VIS-MIN: 4 7 16 18 36 39 — P9,639,437.40

SUPERLOTTO 6/49: 3 5 13 26 29 30 — P18,702,633.60



‘The Firm’ eyed for Corona trial

THE HOUSE prosecution team plans to tap “The Firm” as one of its private lawyers in the impeachment trial of Chief Justice Renato Corona at the Senate.

No offer yet

18 witnesses

Lawyer wants impeachment trial stopped

Abalos denies accusing Pasay judge of bribery

OFWs buck hike in Philhealth rate

Cebuano martyr closer to sainthood

Former Zambo Sibugay gov seeks bail for graft, malversation case







Erap coaccused knew about charges, gov't lawyers insist

By Leila B. Salaverria

GOVERNMENT prosecutors have insisted before the Sandiganbayan that Yolanda Ricaforte was properly served and received copies of the supplemental complaint filed against her, as well as of the Ombudsman resolution indicting her for plunder 10 years ago.

The Office of the Special Prosecutor said Ricaforte, a coaccused in the plunder case against former President Joseph Estrada, was aware of the charges against her even if the special prosecutor could not produce the documents to show that she had received the complaint and the resolution.

The OSP made the assertion in a motion asking the court to admit in compliance with the resolution that directed it to show Ricaforte had received the documents.

Ricaforte earlier asked the court to order a new preliminary investigation in her case and to quash her arrest warrant.

She had claimed, among other things, that there had been no valid preliminary investigation since she was unable to answer the allegations in the supplemental complaint, which contained the specific details of the charges against her.

She said she did not receive the April 4, 2001, resolution that recommended plunder charges against her and that this showed the preliminary investigation had not been completed.

She contended that she had given her new address in the United States in her January 2001 counter-affidavit, yet the resolution was still sent to her old address.

In its latest motion, the OSP admitted it could not find the document with the address to which the Office of the Ombudsman sent its Feb. 2, 2001 order requiring Ricaforte to comment on the supplemental complaint.

Proof of Ricaforte's receipt

It could not find as well the proof of Ricaforte's receipt of the April 4, 2001, resolution.

Nevertheless, it said that Ricaforte clearly received the Feb. 2 order since in her March 7, 2001, motion she mentioned that she was served a copy of the second supplemental complaint attached to the Feb. 2 order requiring her to comment.

As for the April 4 resolution, the OSP said the prosecution insisted that despite the absence of proof, a copy was sent to Ricaforte's address at Veterans Village in Quezon City.

Ricaforte allegedly acted as the collector of collections of illegal gambling payoffs to Estrada. She left the country at the height of the corruption scandal that ended with Estrada's ouster from office and subsequent conviction for plunder in 2007. Estrada was since pardoned.

ERRATUM

The LG 55LW6700 55" Cinema 3D TV, which appeared on page 4 of the 24-page SM Appliance Center Christmas Wish Book 2011, distributed as an insert in the December 19 issue of Philippine Daily Inquirer, was wrongly priced with an SRP of P27,490, and a 12-month installment price of P2,290.83 per month.

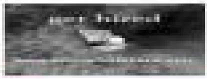
The correct SRP is P109,990, with P16,665.83 monthly installment payment for 12 months.

We regret and apologize for the error.



The Daily Gospel

DECEMBER 21 (Wednesday)



Across the NATION

1ST DIRECTIVE FROM P-NOY

Hataman imposes log ban in ARMM

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Nasser Bandaliza

NEWLY appointed Gov. Mujiv Hataman, of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, ordered a total ban on logging in the region, heeding the first instruction that he received from President Aquino.

[illegible]



[illegible]

Bomb blast rocks school; cops link case to OICs

[illegible]

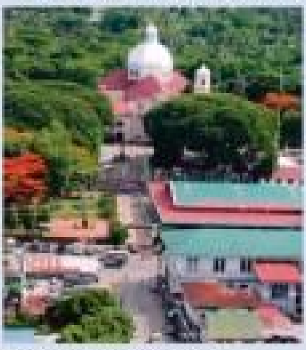
Floods hit 50 of 91 villages in Isabela capital

[illegible]

Laguna town execs upbeat over city status

[illegible]

Townsfolk rejoice freeze of plan to destroy town plaza



[illegible]

HOMETOWN Snapshot

[illegible]

Gov tells tourism players: Up ante

By Juan Escandor Jr.
Inquirer Southern Luzon

Catchy, positive

3-syllable trend

Package tours



Why not online buying for EVERYONE?

With *my* @PREPAID MasterCard®, Now you can!

TO SEE: "KATY PERRY THE CALIFORNIA DREAMS TOUR" TICKETS

LIVE IN MANILA

TICKETWORLD

TO BUY: PHILIPPINE AIRLINES' 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS PROMO

Philippine Airlines

TO HAVE: APPS AND GADGETS AVAILABLE ONLINE

GROUPON

GET → LOAD → USE → LOAD → USE



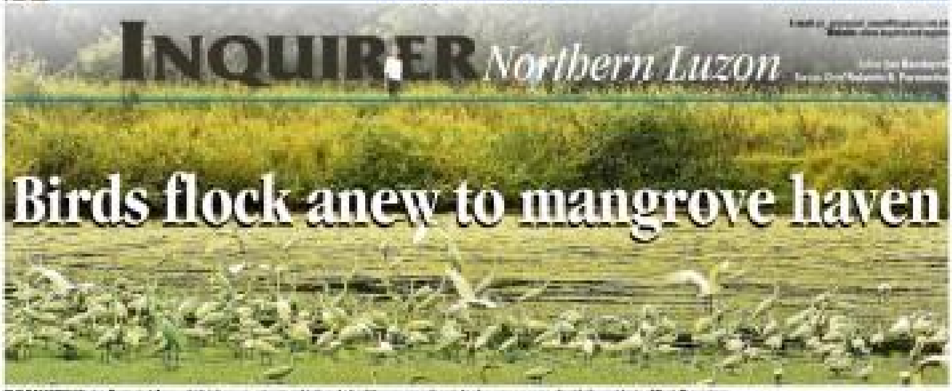
BPI
Let's make it easy

With *my* @PREPAID MasterCard®, I can now book and buy my own Philippine Airlines tickets and join in all the vacation fun.

Philippine Airlines

INQUIRER Northern Luzon

Birds flock anew to mangrove haven



THE BANGRIN Marine Protected Area, which is home to migratory birds and a healthy mangrove forest, has become a source of pride for residents of Bani, Pangasinan.

By Yolanda Sotelo
Bani, Pangasinan

IN THE MIDDLE of Tambac Bay, an estuary where at least nine rivers meet, is a lush mangrove forest where migratory and local birds fly free and marine life thrives.

It would be hard to imagine when only more than 20 years ago, the river was barren, without mangrove trees that used to flourish in the area. The town's mangrove forests were destroyed to give way to fishpond development in the area.

"The town used to have around 3,000 hectares of mangrove forests. At the end of the 1990s, only a hectare was left," says Mayor Marcelo Navarro Jr.

But his father, the late Mayor Marcelo Navarro Sr., was decided to revive the town's mangrove paradise.

Thus the Bangrin Marine Protected Area (MPA) was established in 1998, when the local government entered into a three-year community contract with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) for an integrated mangrove rehabilitation project. It is comanaged by the local government and the fisherfolk of Aporo and San Miguel villages.

Some 20 years later, the elder Navarro's dream has become a pride of the town. The 42-ha Bangrin MPA bagged the second prize in the Para del Mar award as the country's outstanding MPA in 2011. The award is given by the MPA Support Network (MSN), a multisectoral group that supports marine protected areas.

The Para del Mar (For the Sea) award recognizes the outstanding management practices of MPAs in the country, including the extent of community involvement, the degree of local government and community comanagement, the enforcement of environmental laws and the participation of other stakeholders.

The top prize went to Baragasan Marine Sanctuary in Tungawan, Zamboanga Sibugay, an 800-ha area of coral reef, sea grass beds and mangroves.

Navarro says his father would have been very happy for the achievement, the first national award earned by the Bangrin MPA. In 1998, it bagged the Likas Yaman award given by the DENR.

Tourist attraction

According to Navarro, the MPA is fast becoming a tourist attraction of the town. It is identified in the book, "Bird Watching in the Philippines," as one of the 12 best sites for bird watching in the country.

Bangrin's mangrove forest is home to 21 species of shellfish, nine species of fish and 37 species of birds.

Navarro says the plan is to designate a spot in the MPA as a bird park where a board walk will be placed for bird watchers and visitors.

At least three cottages will be put up so visitors will have a place to stay as they watch birds in the late afternoon and early morning.

There is a board walk around the MPA where visitors may view the forests and the birds. They may also paddle boats to go deeper into the mangrove forest.

> In Tambac Bay is an estuary where nine rivers meet and migratory and local birds fly in a mangrove sanctuary

A pair of Barangay Dagat (sea guards) is assigned to patrol the forest 24 hours daily. A coast watch station has been put up to guard the forest from illegal activities. Fishing is strictly prohibited inside the protected area.

But the MPA has not been immune from environmental degradation, which could be caused by the waste residue and pollution from aquaculture operations in nearby towns.

Ronald Figuracion, a Barangay Dagat, says a variety of algae has been proliferating in the past years. "This type of algae, which looks like a green mosquito net, usually grows during the rainy months when the water is fresh and dies when the sea water enters. But we have noticed that through the years, they have become thicker," he says.

The variety is different from the one fed to bangus (milkfish) in some towns. "This kind is thick and the bangus can't eat it," he says. It entangles the newly planted mangrove seedlings or traps and kills oysters.

Despite these problems, local officials and residents are firm in keeping Bangrin healthy and protected because it symbolizes their unity and fulfillment of their dreams.

PH still top Christian country in Asia, 5th in world

Mendoza flick entered in Berlin film festival

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

Flying out? Come to airport early

By Tina G. Santos

iPhone 4s with Globe, quite simply the best experience

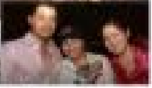












2008 iPhone and Globe: The perfect match

All I Want for Christmas is an iPhone from Globe!

2009 The Love Month iPhone 3G promo

2010
Globe brings iPhone 4 to Manila!



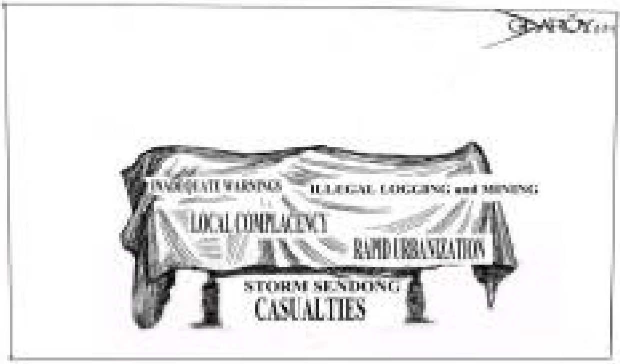
2011
Globe takes the iPhone mania to the next level



INQUIRER
OPINION

Bad faith

EDITORIAL



More and bigger floods coming

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

What you sow

There's the Rub

Conrado de Quiros

Aquino's soft coup

ANALYSIS



Amando Doronila

Condominium, pandemonium

PINOY KASI



Michael L. Tan

Aid for the living and the dead

AT LARGE



Rina Jimenez-David

'Bibinquera ng Presidente'

LOOKING BACK



Ambeth R. Ocampo

Peace talks need not be complicated

LETTERS

Corona resignation is the best solution



PROTESTERS hold a rally in front of the Supreme Court calling for the impeachment of Chief Justice Corona.

Erratum

Refreshing changes in a Church that remains the same





Father ignores stench to see son in coffin for last time

Shared tombs

Palparan ordered arrested after travel ban failed; no bail set

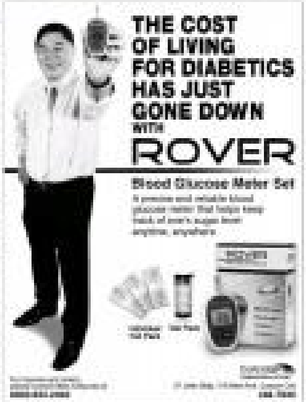
'She's the fool'

Liar

Last known address











P-Noy: I know gov't could have done more





Infra repairs

Why dead dumped at landfill in CDO





Loans available

Relatives outraged

Refrigerated vans

Tedious process

Apartment tombs

Call for volunteers

I wish I were the one who died, says ma

Like bricks

Red handkerchief

Erring gov't execs should be fired, says CDO bishop

Mining firms accountable

Read, heed geo-hazard maps: 'We're building in harm's way'

Local execs face penalties

Geo-hazard maps

Not enough, says Loren

Christmas rush to give; aid pours in for victims, survivors



Local, foreign donors

Death toll

Cash-for-work

'Frank' victims

Medical mission

PDI drive

Pagasa wants telcos to send storm alerts

Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres
Associate Editor Francis T.J. Ochoa

SPORTS

Rain or Shine, Petron try to finish off foes



Lady Eagles seek win No. 5 versus Lady Tams

By Cedelf P. Tupas

Stag Sangalang is Champions League MVP



STEPPING UP Sangalang (top)

By Cedelf P. Tupas

PBA joins relief effort for calamity victims

Patriots give Pampanga kids early Yuletide treat

Tale of two birthday celebrators

IN HUDDLE

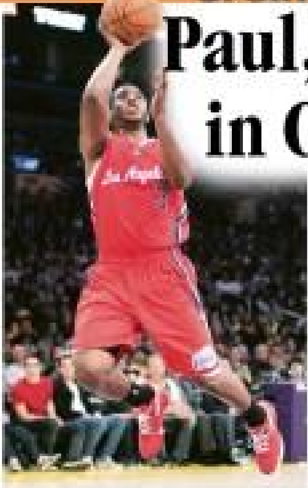


Beth Celis



PARA GAMES TANKERS

PSC urges 'flopped' NSAs: Find sponsors



Paul, Billups shine in Clippers debut

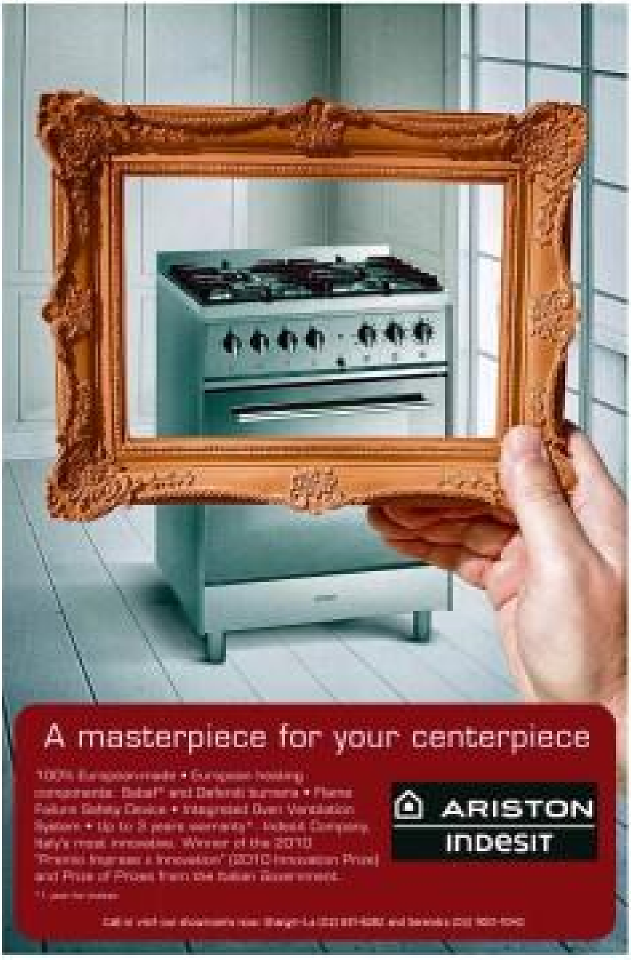
5 NBA opening-day games on Premium TV





ICTSI golf squads tab 48-win season

Kings void Hayes pact after failed medical




Suntrust
Sentosa
CALAMBA, LAGUNA
Every family deserves
a community that cares.
LIVE large
LIVE happy
LIVE easy
Sentosa
Tels: 856-7015 to 19
SUNTRUST

Aplus
METRO

DID YOU KNOW

MMDA identifies 'naughty' bus firms

More than 60 provincial, city operators caught with 'colorum' units

PRESENTING the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority's (MMDA) naughty list—this year's top "colorum" violators among public utility bus companies operating in the metropolis.



LIFE IN THE FAST LANE

2 arrested for raping call agent

By Nancy C. Carvajal



ALL AGLOW FOR CHRISTMAS

Valenzuela smoke belchers, watch out

Homicide complaint filed vs Ramgen's assistant

2 cops face probe for suspect's escape



REINDEER LAND

Traffic flow rerouted in Marikina

MetroBriefs

Fire destroys house in Malabon

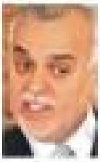
Woman killed, motorcycle rider hurt in accident

Proposals on forest conservation accepted

The WORLD

WORLDBRIEFS

Iraq accuses vice president in assassinations



AL-HASHEMI

New York Times News Service

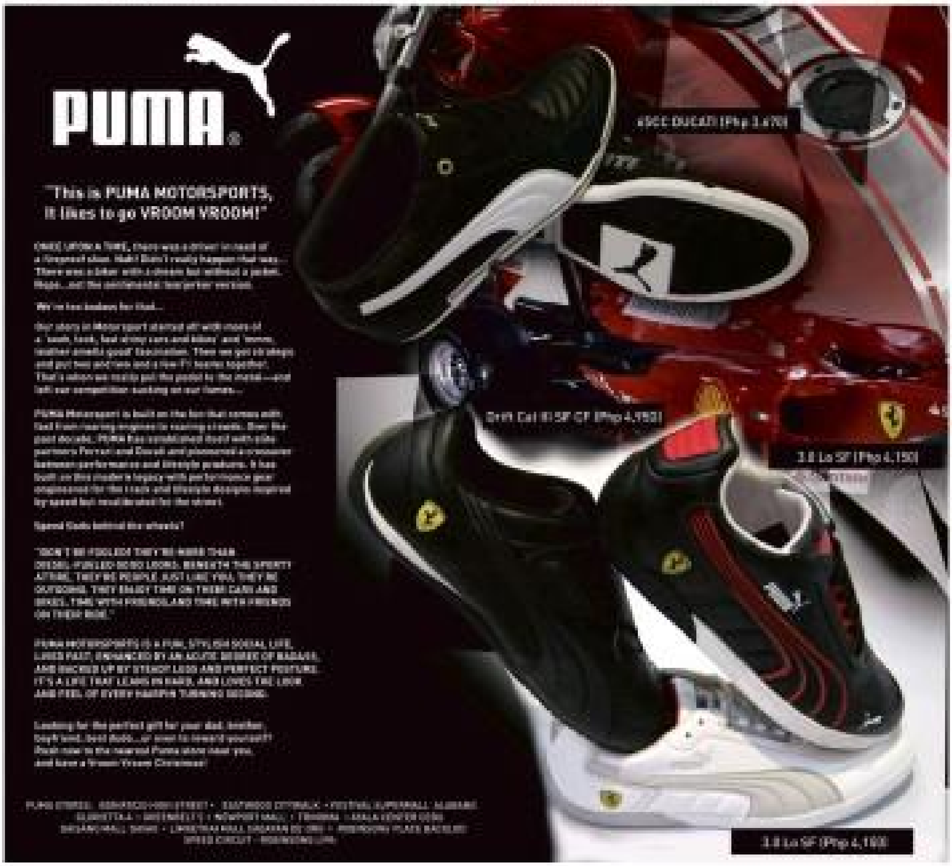
Over 100 dead in Syria; Arabs move on peace plan

Iran admits western sanctions inflicting damage

CIA, Seoul intel failed in detecting Kim's death

WASHINGTON—Kim Jong-il, the enigmatic North Korean leader, died on a train at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday in his country. Forty-eight hours later, officials in South Korea still did not know anything about it—to say nothing of Washington, where the State Department acknowledged "press reporting" of Kim's death well after North Korean state media had announced it.







Mr. Candido Caminero and Family receiving their award from Senator Jinggoy Estrada at the 2011 MOFYA Awards Night
(L-R) Stella Christine Dizon, Head Globe Prepaid; DOLE Undersecretary Danilo Cruz; Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada, Chairman of the Congressional Oversight Committee on Overseas Workers Affairs; OWWA Administrator Carmelita Dimzon; Aurelio R. Montinola III, President and CEO-Bank of the Philippine Islands

Globe

Kahit malayo, laging close ang pamilya sa tulong ng Globe at OWWA.

Distance shouldn't and doesn't get in the way of building strong families, as proven by Dr. Carlito Astillero and Mr. Candido Caminero, the big winners at the recently concluded 2011 National Model OFW of the Year Awards (MOFYA).

Though Dr. Astillero and Mr. Caminero worked abroad for 35 and 50 years respectively, being apart from their loved ones didn't stop them from being loving, caring, informed and involved fathers. In fact, being apart only drove them to stay in touch more often and more meaningfully. Through letters. Through cards. And over the phone.

Congratulations to Dr. Carlito Astillero and Mr. Candido Caminero, living proof that being close isn't a matter of distance. But a matter of heart.

For years, Globe and OWWA have partnered to strengthen OFW families even beyond connectivity. Each year, they give OFWs recognition not only for their heroic contribution to the country's economy, but for their equally heroic efforts to build a family even as they struggle to make a living.



Dr. Carlito Astillero and Family receiving their award from Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada at the 2011 MOFYA Awards Night
(L-R) Stella Christine Dizon, Head Globe Prepaid; DOLE Undersecretary Danilo Cruz; Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada, Chairman of the Congressional Oversight Committee on Overseas Workers Affairs; OWWA Administrator Carmelita Dimzon; Aurelio R. Montinola III, President and CEO-Bank of the Philippine Islands

MOFYA

ENJOY YOUR GLOBE *Your Way*

IN THIS ISSUE

- **Biz Buzz:** Lucio Co rebounds /B3
- **Taiwan bank unit in PH** to delist shares from PSE /B2

BUSINESS

- **Banks' bad debt** exposure continues to drop /B2-1
- **First Metro investing** P5.6B more in power venture /B2-2

World Bank cuts PH growth forecast anew

INDICATORS

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

43.870



STOCK MARKET

24.06



Stocks continue to rise

Pushes reforms to address structural bottlenecks

The World Bank has again lowered its growth forecast for the Philippines for 2011 and 2012, saying low public spending and weak global demand weighed down the national output in the first three quarters of the year.

BIR suspends field audits until Jan. 5 next year



Taiwan bank unit in PH to delist shares from PSE

Tender offer for publicly owned stocks readied

World Bank cuts PH growth forecast anew



The Insular Life Assurance Company, Ltd.

NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

CURRENCIES

Lucio Co rebounds

BIZ BUZZ
By the staff

[illegible]

Giving back

[illegible]

Giving back, too

[illegible]

Christmas @ Ayala Garden

[illegible]

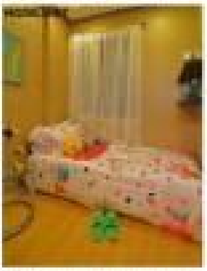
ROHM renews partnership with MEDICard as its healthcare provider



[illegible]



Kid-friendly garden community soon to rise in Paco, Manila





BUSINESS

Banks' bad debt exposure continues to drop

NPL-to-total loans ratio down to 2.54% from 3.19%

First Metro investing ₱5.6B more in power venture

Financing expansion in the Visayas

Should I use my credit card during holiday season?

MONEY MATTERS

Henry Ong



Q3 current account surplus down

Ad spending in PH, rest of Asean grows sharply

Stocks continue …

Biz Buzz

BIR suspends field …

PLDT taps Wi-Fi technology for broadband rollout

Benguet takes ₱500-M loan for working capital

Malampaya royalty payments hit ₱228B

Ayala firm to keep ...

BUSINESS

Ayala firm to keep Clark water rates 'competitive'





MOTORING



A MINI Bus for one of the sports world's biggest names

Manny's Pac-Van

MOTORING EXCLUSIVE

A sneak peek of the boxing hero's customized Hyundai County



THE WHOLE Hyundai County was stripped of its interior and re-laid out to accommodate creature comforts one can only find in bigger motorhomes and custom trailer vans.

A sports car Asians can afford



On the Road
Aida Sevilla-Mendoza



CATERHAM is a good but undervalued brand with great heritage and goodwill

Thrill of speed

Caterham F1

Solutions

2011: The year of driving 'out of the ordinary'

Text and photos by Tessa R. Salazar



FERRARI drive in French Riviera



SPOTTED in Salzburg, Austria: BMW Z1

GUILTY AS charged, your Honor.





SPOTTED in Stuttgart: Mercedes 190 (W201)



IN PISA, Italy, the Toyota Prius

Hot cars set to make 2012 very exciting

More focused, desirable and enjoyable driver's cars hitting the local scene next year

SKID MARKS

Botchi Santos

SO THE car market is heating up next year, which means more choices for the car-loving market. We've seen certain segments grow this year, particularly high-end, sports and luxury cars. Though this segment might make up for a small percentage of the overall market, it shows just how much more sophisticated the local market is becoming, as high-end cars with high-end features will soon slowly start trickling down to other more affordable mass-market cars. It's also a segment I'm excited to see prosper, because come on, let's face it, the most desirable, most fun-to-drive cars are in the upper echelon of the industry.







E for Exuberance and Efficiency

AMG's new E 63 is also much more fuel efficient

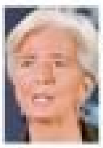


BUSINESS

European Union fails to reach IMF loan target

Further rifts cited within the 27-member bloc

Developing nations urged to boost defenses



LAGARDE

VICTORIAS MILLING COMPANY, INC.

NOTICE OF SALE OF FISHPOND AREA/ PRAWN FARM

Notice is hereby given that **VICTORIAS MILLING COMPANY, INC., (VMC)** intends to sell approximately **FIFTY SEVEN (57) hectares** of fishpond area/ prawn farm located at Brgy. Guisok, Manapla, Negros Occidental.

Interested parties may submit their Letters of Intent addressed to:

MS. TERESITA V. ILAGAN
Controller
VMC Compound, Victorias City, Negros Occidental, or
VMC Manila Office c/o Tanduay Distillers Inc.
348 J. Nepomuceno St., San Miguel District, Manila

Letters of Intent must be delivered to the address above not later than December 31, 2011.

For more information, please contact Ms. Ilagan at telephone no. (034) 3993373.

VMC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources

Shellfish Bulletin No. 27
Series of 2011
19 December 2011



INVITATION TO BID

OBITUARIES

Teresita Moser Dos Remedios

Born September 3, 1922,
passed away on December 7, 2011
at 6:00 am in California, USA.

She is survived by her husband, Gustavo G. Dos Remedios, her children Manuel M. Diaz, Elizabeth A. Sobral, Margaret M. Dos Remedios and in-laws Carlos A. Sobral and Christina A. Diaz; her sisters Rosita M. Martin, Milagros M. Campos and Leonora M. Montanez, and her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

She will truly be missed, and forever loved.

"Now I am about to go the way of all the earth. You know with all your heart and soul that not one of all the good promises the LORD your God gave you has failed. Every promise has been fulfilled; not one has failed." — Joshua

INVITATION TO BID

"AS IS WHERE IS"

For particulars, please call Chartis Phils. Insurance, Inc.

More Classifieds on pages

PAGCOR 1	A-16
PAGCOR 2	B2-3
DOLE	B2-3
SBMA	B2-3
CONTACTO & ASSOCIATES	B2-3

"I show my love to thousands of generations
of those who love and obey my laws."
Exodus 20:6

Carolina "ARLING" Lapus Gozon

peacefully joined her Creator
on the 19th of December 2011,
at the age of 97.

A matriarch of the Lapus-Gozon clan, Arling was a living testimony of the miracles of life. Upon surviving a potentially threatening ailment at the age of 15, Arling committed her life to the Lord. Her legacy lives on in the countless lives she has touched through her Christian faith, the churches she has built, and the loved ones she has left behind. Throughout her blessed life, she was surrounded by her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren:

Benjamin and Linda (+) Gozon
Belinda and Jack Madrid (Jacob, Gabe, Ramon)
Melanie and JJ Gana (Alex, Jaime, Isabel)
Benjie and Heidi Gozon (Joseph, Elise)
Ricky and Carmela Gozon (Max, Gabby)

Carolina and Nestor Jimenez
Butch and Tricia Jimenez (Miguel, Benjamin, Joaquin, Maina)
Joel and Gaby Jimenez (Jaime, Bianca, Sofia)
Laurie and Matthew Westfall (Alex, Sam, Nicko)
Carmen and Jay Eng (Gabe, Sam, Andre)

Henry and Teresa Gozon
Annette and Lito Abrigo (Anja, Andy)
Philip
Marilou and Dax Viterbo (Taffy, Rush, Sam)

Flor and Ed Tamesis
Edwin and Maggie Tamesis (EJ, Mo)
Ted and Vanessa Tamesis
Tricia and Toni Holdenarro (Nando, Natalia)

brother-in-law Arch. Angel Lazaro, Jr.; her brothers and sisters: Norberto L. Lazaro (+), Benjamin Lapus (+), Jaime Lapus (+), Marina L. Villanueva (+), Magdalena L. Lazaro (+), Ismael Lapus (+)



Her remains lie in state at The Heritage Park, Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City from Tuesday, December 20 to Thursday, December 22, 2011. Visitors are welcome from 1 pm to 12 pm daily.

To celebrate her life, a thanksgiving service will be held at 9:00 am on Friday, December 23, 2011 at The Heritage Park, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City. Interment at Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City immediately afterwards.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests for your presence or prayers.

BIENVENIDO "B. AL." ALANO HERNANDEZ

of Airport Village (Baclaran Sobol), Parañaque City
and Alfonso, Cavite

Charter President, Rotary Club of Manila Central
Charter Member, Rotary Club of Raha Sulayman-Manila
Class of 1953, FEU Institute of Law

Died in the grace of our Lord
on December 18, 2011 at the age of 81.

His wife, **Angelita** (†), Children: **Jocelyn**; **Rosalyn** and **Romarico**; **Evelyn** (†) and **Jose**; **Carolyn** and **Erico**; **Ramon** (†) and **Marissa**; brother, **Serafin**; grandchildren: **Charmaine**, **Chicco**, **Bibey**, **Reggie**, **Chuckie**, **Isabina**, **Ingrid** and **Chiqui**, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at Tangalle Chapel of La Funeraria Paz-Sucat (inside Manila Memorial Park), Sucat Road, Parañaque City.

Interment will be tomorrow, Thursday, December 22, 2011 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City.

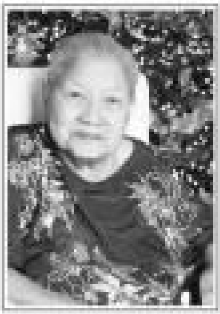
"Even when I walk through a dark valley I feel no fear. For you are at my side, your rod and staff give me courage."
Psalm 23:4

Our dearest Pepito

JOSE ANCHETA AVENA

[illegible]

"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want... Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."
Psalm 23 [illegible]



Carolina "Arling" Lapus Gozon

Chairman, GOZON FOUNDATION
Wife of former Secretary of Agriculture
and Natural Resources, Benjamin M. Gozon

lived a blessed life until
December 19, 2011 at the age of 97.

Her remains lie in state at The Heritage Park, Bayani Road,
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City
from Tuesday, December 20 to Thursday, December 22, 2011
from 1 pm to 12 pm.

The thanksgiving service is at 9:00 am on Friday, December 23, 2011
at The Heritage Park, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

(The family appreciates your presence. Kindly refrain from sending flowers.)

Business

Asian markets edge up as N. Korea fears ease

But Europe's debt problems continue to cast a pall



China banks continue to lure depositors despite warnings

LIFESTYLE *Parenting*

How did you introduce Christmas to your kids?

How did you introduce Christmas to your kids?

Santa, carols, Jesus' birthday cake . . . Parents tell us how they enjoy Christmas with their kids

















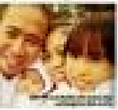


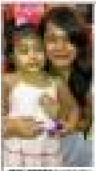


















Globe

Surf the way you want

With Globe PowerSurf, never pay more than ₱999.



So stop worrying and start surfing with these PowerSurf Plans:

PowerSurf

Text **POWERSURF 99** to 8888
50mb/30 days

Text **POWERSURF 299** to 8888
300mb/30 days

Text **POWERSURF 499** to 8888
1gb/30 days

Enjoy the internet your way with Globe Postpaid Mobile Internet.

Your Way



Audrey Tan-Zubiri



MAMA DIARIES

Teaching your children to share

There are many ways to do it, especially now that Typhoon Sendong has ravaged Mindanao right before Christmas

AMID ALL the beautifully wrapped gifts, bright lights and lovely carols, it's awfully easy to get lost in one side of Christmas and forget about the other. And when you have small children to entertain, it's not just easy—it's also fun!

[illegible]

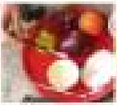
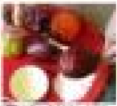
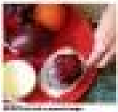
Quality education

[illegible]

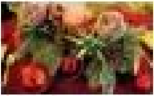
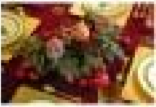
2. Tahanan Santa Luisa

[illegible]

TEACHING D3

Setting up a sugared fruit centerpiece for Christmas dinner





Let your table talk this holiday season





Teaching your children to share

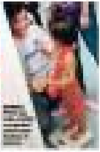
Technology is making it easier for kids to smile

Smart has come up with an app to help an international children's charity keep a database—and help more patients













Super mom overcomes multiple challenges

[illegible]

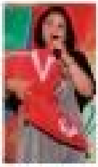


[illegible]



Weathered storms

[illegible]



[illegible]

> 'It's an honor beyond words,' says Esperanza Uy of her Best Mom award from Pascual Laboratories, makers of Ascof



[illegible]

Advocacy

[illegible]



LIFESTYLE Home Entertaining



For Nena Tantoco, Christmas decorating is a labor of love

'It's never about me, but about the families I'm doing it for,' she says. Thus, the homes of her children reflect their different personalities



By Alex Y. Vergara

NENA TANTOCO, wife of Bienvenido "Rico" Tantoco Jr., president of Sta. Elena Properties and chair of Rustan Group of Companies, has been decorating the homes of close friends and loved ones during Christmas for several decades now. This year is no different.

Sights and sounds of Christmas







Good food, good meat





Best advice at Bianca Zobel's shower: 'Let the man always think he's correct'

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH



Maurice Arcache

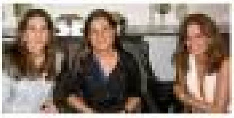
















A bridal shower for Bianca Zobel













Training new racing champs









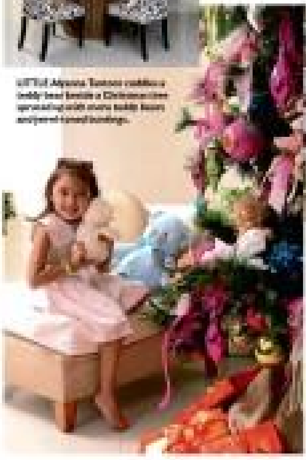
For Nena Tantoco, Christmas. . .















Visual department



A musical Christmas and more at Pico de Loro Beach & Country Club



[illegible]

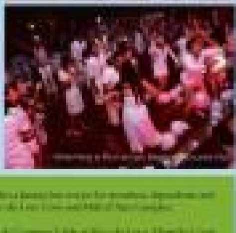














[illegible]

LIFESTYLE *Home&Entertaining*

For feedback, e-mail at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph [illegible]

Watch comes in Christmas colors and with a heart

Swatch and Habitat Youth Council come up with a limited-edition watch to symbolize generosity of Filipino spirit



CHRIS Yu and Tessa Prieto-Valdes wearing the Habitat Swatch

SWATCH PHILIPPINES has teamed up with the Habitat Youth Council and created the limited-edition Habitat Watch by Swatch.

The new watch was launched last Dec. 7 at the Gallery of Greenbelt 5, Makati.

Designed to reflect the colors of the Christmas season, the silver and gold Habitat watch also symbolizes the generosity of spirit of Filipinos.

With only 2,000 watches up for circulation, the Habitat Watch by Swatch hypes Christmas shopping in line with charity giving.

The launch event alone sold 800 watches.

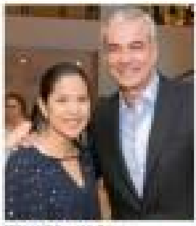
"It never fails to amaze me how much happiness we could generate just by buying a watch," says Isabel Mistral-Francisco, Habitat Youth Council president. "The funds produced will be used for the construction of houses during the Youth Build 2012 next year."

The Youth Council is composed of Isabel Mistral-Francisco, Kevin Yang, Pedro T. Reyes, Simon Tavares. It is co-founded and chaired by Alex Isbaque.

WATCH F3



VIRGIE Ramos of Swatch and [illegible] Po



FERNANDO and Kit Zobel



SOFIA and Paul Elizalde



SWATCH collector and Habitat supporter Michelle Arvillo

Watch comes in Christmas colors and with a heart



CHRIS Tiu checks out the new Habitat Watch by Swatch.

From page F1

The Youth Council promotes youth participation in social development. It raises funds and promotes projects that help uplift the lives of poor Filipino families.

The Habitat Youth Council also helps in disaster response relief, and rehabilitation.

Funds raised by Swatch Philippines will be used during Youth Build 2012.

On May 12, 2012, Habitat for Humanity Philippines will gather 2,000 volunteers to build 200 homes in Barangay Tenza, Navotas City. This is a part of the Asia Pacific-wide simultaneous build event in five countries—China, India, Indonesia, Thailand and Philippines.

Habitat Watch by Swatch is available in all Ayala Malls Swatch outlets.

Visit www.habitat.org.ph or call Claire Alparcon or Rose Marcelo at 8462177.



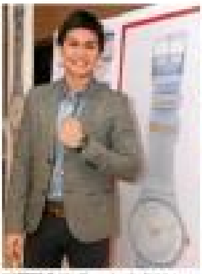
DINESH Mahtani, Isabel Mariel Francisco, Kevin Yang, Simon Tantoco



CHRIS Tiu, Cris Villonco



HABITAT for Humanity ambassador Derek Ramsay and Youth Council president Isabel Mariel Francisco wearing the Habitat Swatch



MATTEO Guidicelli wearing the Habitat Swatch



TERRI Madrigal, Giselle Sanchez



GRACE and Felix Ang

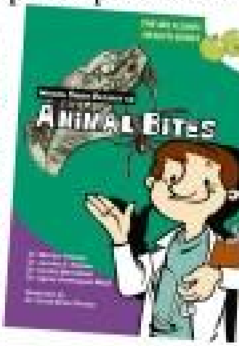
Book provides prescriptions for animal bites

MILFLORES PUBLISHING has released the latest in its best-selling Health Series booklets: "Animal Bites" by doctors Marilyn Walnut, Janette S. Ramos, Cecilia Montalban and Agnes Dominguez Mejia, and "Hypertension in the Young" by doctors Adrian Paul J. Rabe, Cecilia Tambor and Mejia.

Many Filipinos have suffered animal bites or stings of different kinds—from dog bites to snake bites to bee stings. While some of these may just be aggravations, others are dangerous, even fatal.

The first booklet contains a wealth of information, in language easily accessible to the layman and with illustrations by Dr. David Ilio un Olonia—about the most common types of bites and stings, symptoms, remedies and preventive care.

It also provides an appendix containing diagnostic centers all over the country, including their locations.



The second booklet disproves the common belief that you have to be elderly to suffer from hypertension (or what is commonly referred to as "high blood"). In the Philippines, 19 percent of adults age 20-39 years old are at risk for hypertension, and 11 percent actually have hypertension. The booklet contains easy-to-follow information regarding diagnosis, causes, types, treatments and preventive measures.

The authors, like the authors of the other booklets in the series, are all experts from UP-PGH. Other booklets are "Anemia: Unmasking the Silent Enemy," "My Kidneys and Me," "Allergies, Dermatitis, Rhinitis and Asthma," and "Do You Snore?"

Series editor is Dr. Mejia, UP-PGH Department of Medicine chair and UP College of Medicine professor.

'There's something for everyone this Christmas at Centris

CENTRIS WALK in Eton Centris recently held its Christmas-tree lighting ceremonies. Headlining the event were Prim Nañola, senior vice president for business development, and Ruiza de Rubio, vice president for marketing. Also present was Louie Ciambal, Eton Centris' assistant vice president for Property Management.

The 33-ft-tall tree is situated in the middle of Centris' canopies called Constellation.

The internationally acclaimed University of the East Chorale serenaded the crowd with Yuletide favorites, while Santa Claus came in riding the Centris Walk's Kiddie Train.

Different Yuletide activities are lined up this December at Centris Walk, beginning with the "Simbang Gabi sa Centris"—the traditional nine-day novena masses at 8:30 p.m. until Dec. 23, and at 6 p.m. on Dec. 24.

There are Christmas bazaars until Jan. 2, 4 p.m.-8 a.m., plus the famous Midori market (every Friday and Saturday, 4-11 p.m., and Sunday, 8 a.m.-2 p.m.).

For the health-conscious, there's the Food Bowl Night Market every Friday and Saturday, 6 p.m.-12 midnight.

Kids will enjoy the Kiddie Carousel and the Kiddie Train. Santa will be at Centris Walk every Friday and Saturday, 7-10 p.m., until Dec. 23, and 1-8 p.m. on Dec. 24.

Laser Mania, the country's biggest and the only three-level Laser Tag Arena, and the Bungee Fun, are also great for those who want some adrenaline-pumping action, while the climbing wall, hoverboards and the mini-GP Kiddie Wheels are fun rides for kids and adults alike.

Families and friends can celebrate the Holidays with reunions and get-togethers at Centris Walk's array of restaurants.

Centris Walk is part of the 32-hectare, fully integrated township called Eton Centris. It is the largest, privately owned property along Edsa corner Quezon Avenue situated at the gateway of Quezon City's emerging Triangle Park Central Business District.

Call 9452466 and www.etoncentris.com.



CENTRIS Walk is all aglow this Christmas. Its Christmas tree comes with multicolored lights and trimmings, adding sparkle to the season.

More tips on food storage

THE CONSUMER
Linda B. Bolido

LAST WEEK I wrote about using "best before..." information as a guide rather than as a warning. Food experts say your senses—taste, smell and sight should be used to tell if something is still edible.

Sally Wadyka, writing for MSN Health & Fitness, offers other suggestions on how long you can keep certain popular foods.

She says Jim Allen, a spokesperson for the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA), suggests that, to lengthen the shelf life of bread, it should be stored in a reasonably air-tight container that is dry, as humidity will create a prime environment for the growth of mold.

As for cheeses, Allen says hard cheeses can last for years but soft cheeses (like brie or goat cheese) will mold much sooner. This is due to the difference in the amount of moisture. Cheeses with more moisture grow mold much faster than those with very little moisture content.

Allen, according to Wadyka, suggests throwing away soft cheeses as soon as mold starts to grow. "But hard cheeses can be salvaged." He recommends slicing away at least one inch around all sides of the moldy part of the hard cheese to make the rest safe to eat.

Milk that smells sour will likely not taste very good even in coffee or cereal. Wadyka reports that Allen says there is no difference in life span between organic and non-organic milk. However, the amount of fat in the milk can affect shelf life. Thus, non-fat or skim milk, which has had all the fat removed, will last longer than whole milk.

Cold cuts freshly sliced from a delicatessen counter should be eaten within three to five days. They should be kept in the refrigerator during that time.

"An unopened package of turkey, ham, bologna, salami or other deli meats can be stored for up to two weeks. But once you break that factory seal, they will need to find their way onto a sandwich within three to five days," Wadyka advises.

She says commercially manufactured mayonnaise will have ingredients to help preserve it and extend its shelf (and fridge) life.

Wadyka adds that whether a jar of mayo is opened or remains sealed, it will more lose of taste by the "best before" date stamped on it. She quotes Allen once again, who says, "Once the jar is opened and the product exposed to oxygen, the flavors in the oil may be affected."

The nose knows

But, as with other things, Wadyka says the best approach is to follow the nose. If the oils separate and start to smell, the mayonnaise is past its "best before" date.

A head of lettuce may remain intact for about two weeks. But once it is opened up and the head cut up, it will spoil faster. "That's because you're exposing the interior of the lettuce," Allen explains.

Exposing the interior of the vegetable releases nutrients for bacteria to feed on, and causes leaves to brown due to being exposed to oxygen. Leaf lettuce in special modified atmosphere packaging can last longer because they are better protected from oxygen and bacteria exposure.

Fresh meats should be frozen within days of purchase. Wadyka, in her article says, the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) recommends cooking and eating poultry one to two days after purchasing, and cooking and eating other meats (beef, pork, veal) within three to five days.

But she adds that meat keeps much longer in the freezer. Anything that will not be cooked yet can be kept in the freezer and defrosted when needed.

Merry Christmas!

Send letters to The Consumer, Lifestyle Section, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 1098 Chino Roces Ave. cor. Mascardo and Yague Sts., 1204 Makati; fax 8974793/94; or e-mail lbolido@inquirer.com.ph.




Art exhibit raises funds for rural and environmental development







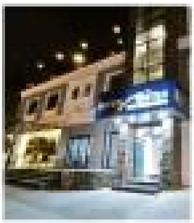
Knowledge, protection and healing make esoteric gifts for 2012

'Mamma Mia!' in CCP, 'Defending the Caveman' in RCBC theater



'Defending the Caveman'

Sun Cellular Christmas offers







MIND Museum façade. Right: exhibit at Earth Gallery

Science complex opens in Taguig

The Mind Museum is an educational showcase of science and technology

Text and photos by Doren B. Padilla
Contributor

FOR SO LONG, the arts have been the driving force for the city of the Bonifacio Global City (BGC). Larger-than-life pieces from some of the country's top artistic names make up BGC's Art Walk. With the opening of The Mind Museum in Taguig, it's safe to say that the Arts and Sciences finally have a place all their own.

The Mind Museum was made possible through private donations from corporate sponsors, family and individual donors who believe in giving the Philippines a center for the public understanding of science, in particular science at its most basic.

"Science is all about understanding how things work," said The Mind Museum's managing director Manny Blas. "People need to understand the basic science. What is a cell or a DNA? What makes up the universe? How do telescopes or MRI work? If you understand the principles of science, you know how to apply it. If students can come in here and then go out and consider becoming a scientist or an engineer, then we would have done our job."

The country's first world-class science museum is a P1 billion project that had its past in its planning stage from international experts like Jack Rouse and Associates and the Science Centre Singapore. Its futuristic yet organic design, however, is by a team of architects from Lor Calma & Partners headed by architect Ed Calma.

Taking from mind sustainable design, the building is given a curved roof for more efficient rain collection, slanted exterior walls to minimize the entry of sunlight, and strategic orientation to utilize the shadows of adjacent buildings.



JAIME Zobel de Ayala, Inquirer chair Marixi Prieto



MANNY Blas with robot aide

Calma expressed his belief that The Mind Museum's location in a 12,500-sq-m prime lot in the JY Campos Park, 3rd Avenue—and fronts... "is a sea of box buildings and it celebrates the invention of the Bonifacio High Street axis."

Calma hopes that through the museum, people would see the connection between science and the arts.

The Mind Museum, curated by Maribel Garcia, has five interactive galleries that tell a story of the different aspects of science.

The Atom Gallery has exhibit pieces that show the strange world of the very small in terms of forces and particles.

The Earth Gallery narrates the planet's story and the changing archipelago throughout time. It includes a 3-D animated film by an all-Filipino crew that features 4.6 billion years of the planet's natural history and evolution in 12 minutes.

The Life Gallery dives deep in the understanding of how life surrounds and inhabits us.

The Universe Gallery features the mysterious vastness of the universe and has a unique planetarium for a simulated stargazing experience, all of which holds clues to where we came from and where we are going.

The Technology Gallery shows how humans, with the tools we invent and innovate, are able to express our evolutionary phases.

The Mind Museum also has an outdoor Science-in-the-Park where visitors can experience playful science through four themed pockets: Music, Math, Living and Water.

Other educational facilities include an auditorium, laboratory and classrooms, and educational workshops.

Vice President Jejomar Binay, delivering a speech by President Aquino, expressed confidence in The Mind Museum's ability to engage more young Filipinos in taking an interest in the fields of science and technology.

"Learning is always beneficial, but it becomes especially rewarding when it has something to do with the things going on around us," Binay said. "Learning about the world around us and appreciating its complexities teaches us, whether we are young or old, that we cannot possibly understand everything about our world, but that it is valuable to keep on and to keep widening our knowledge and understanding. The more we learn, the more we want to learn, the more we feel an attraction to the answers and further questions that lie ahead, ultimately leading us toward a brighter future. That is the promise of The Mind Museum."

In his welcome remarks, Bonifacio Art Foundation Inc. chair Jose Eduardo Campos said the soul of Bonifacio Global City has been forever shaped by one of the greatest institutions in history: that of science.

"We built this city founded on the principle that it takes more than commerce to make a place worth the hours that we spend here," Campos said. "Aside from giving people the pleasures of looking at artistic expressions of the human condition in our public art pieces, we wanted to recognize that people needed to also experience the priceless pleasures that come with discovery and exploration. We knew that the city would be complete and dynamic if we had both the arts and sciences make up the soul of BGC."

The Mind Museum will formally open its doors to the public on March 1, 2012. Tickets will be priced at P600. Students will get a special price of P450 while teachers and students from public schools are entitled to only P150 upon presentation of ID.

Senior citizens get a 20-percent discount while kids below three feet get in free.

Visit www.themindmuseum.org. Visits are divided by three-hour guided tour schedules: 9 a.m.-12 nn, 12 nn-3 p.m., 3-6 p.m., and 6-9 p.m.



LARGER than life T-Rex skeleton



[illegible] installation



TAN Yan Kee Foundation trustee Tan Hui Bio, Prieto, Tan, Vice President Jejomar Binay



LUCIO Tan takes one of the seats at the theater as Blas looks on.

Entertainment



RODERICK PAULATE

Cheer Factor





Pretty star hooks up with BF's gay cousin

By the Entertainment Staff





Pretty star...

Root of all evil

Bitter rivals



Rhian Bernal

There's a crowd

Top of the Talk Shows



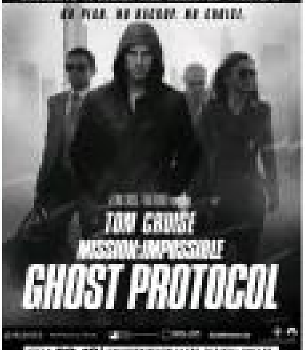
HEART Evangelista



Star says thanks

Rayver Cruz





Is there method to Anne Curtis' 'madness'?

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre





ANNE Curtis: Singing minstrel?

Squeaky vocals

Concert next year

Double-fun



Giving MMFF back to movie industry

Festival head Francis Tolentino would like to minimize government presence in the annual holiday film event

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

UNLIKE his predecessors, Francis Tolentino, chair of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) which spearheads the Metro Manila Film Festival (MMFF), says he would like to see the "private sector" eventually managing the annual event.



BEA Alonzo



JAKE Cuenca

Mainstream stars



ROSANNA Roces

ENTERTAINMENT



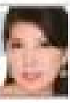
Metro Manila Film Festival

Erbong ng Ina Mo



Christmas wishes for celeb friends

Dolly Wood



Dolly Anne Carvajal

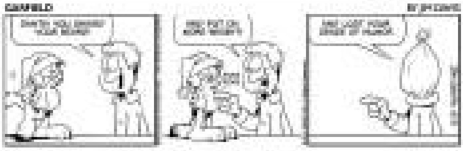


AGA MUHLACH





GARFIELD — BY JIM DAVIS



A. LUPIN



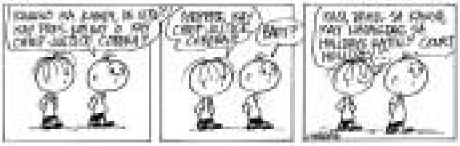
PUGAD BABOY — BY PM JUNIOR



DICK TRACY — BY JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



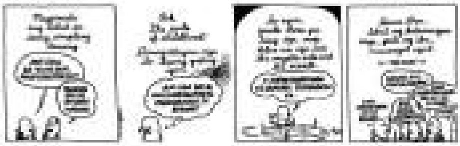
LOVEKNOTS



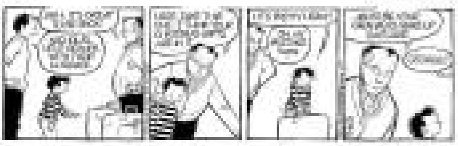
BABY BLUES — BY JERRY SCOTT



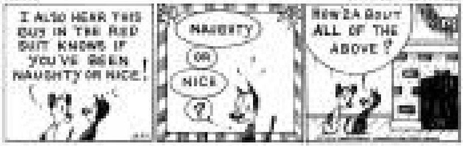
KIKO MACHINE



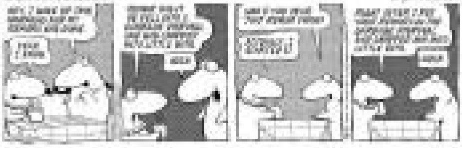
BEN — BY DANIEL SHELTON



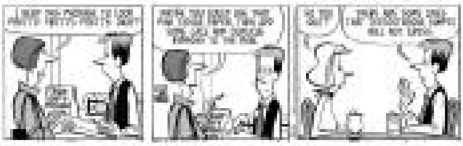
MUTTS — BY PATRICK MCDONNELL



SHERMAN'S LAGOON — BY JIM TOOMEY



DUSTIN — BY STEVE KELLEY AND JEFF PARKER





CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

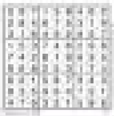
Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.

Conceptis Sudoku

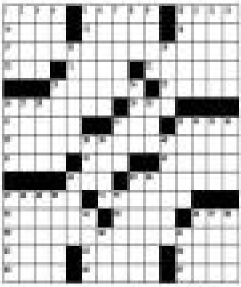
	1	6			7	4	2	3
8			2		1			6
2			4					8
7			3					5
	8	5	1				6	
			8				9	
			7			1		
			9			6		
	4	3				5		

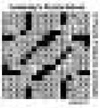
Difficulty Level ★★★

Answer to previous puzzle



CROSSWORD PUZZLE





'Indie-fatigable,' 'indie-scribable' party











Well-loved





'Indie-fatigable,' 'indie-scribable' party

Two 'queens' turn up at Inquirer Tribute

By Bayani San Diego Jr. and Marinel R. Cruz

TRAFFIC!

Supporters and supporters of the independent filmmaking community braved the maddening Metro Manila traffic jams on Thursday night to attend the 2nd Inquirer Indie Tribute at the PDI office in Makati City.

Their efforts were amply rewarded with a nice get-together with rockstars and producers—plus, they got to party with two internationally acclaimed queens of Filipino entertainment: Actress Anita Linda and opera diva Fides Cuyugan-Asensio.



CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE (From row, from left) Bayani San Diego Jr., Ferdinand John Balanag, Dan Canilao, Butch Nolasco, Nick Deocampo, Pastor, Lilit Reyes; (second row, from left) Mirla Tapan, Jade Castro, Eduardo Roy Jr., Ramon Sinpo Zarcola, Moonlimg Bay, Chris Martinez, Rolanas Aquino, Sugeel Tambar, Ronnie O. Velardo and Marinel Cruz.



AXEL Estein and "Zombadings" producer Raymond Lee



JONAH de Ulo

Tickled pink

Anita was tickled pink that her costume, Christian Merin—counselor for cooperation and cultural affairs of the French Embassy in Manila—was a fan.

The venerable actress recounted: "He told me: 'You're Lola! You're famous in Paris!'" Merin was referring to "Lola," Brillante Mendoza's film that won best actress awards for Anita in Spain, Iran and Taiwan.

"I was honored to be seated beside her," Merin later told colleague Mario Rheinhold, audiovisual attaché of the embassy.

French critic Max Tessier explained to Anita that "Lola" had a successful run in French cinemas. "Your posters were displayed all over the city," Tessier told her.



CINEMALAYA Foundation coordinator and organizing committee member Teo Ramos and Cultural Center of Philippines artistic director Chris Millado

Late, later

One of the honored pioneers, Roxlee, who came all the way from his home in Cainta, Rizal, said it took him, his wife and two kids, to get to Makati.

Mary Grace Poe-Llamanzares, chair of the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB), at as had trouble traveling from her office on Timog Avenue in Quezon City. She asked to speak in the early part of the program since she had the MTRCB Christmas party to attend later.

Actress Irma Adlawan, who was to present the Gawad trophy to producer-director Moonlimg Bay, recalled how she got stuck for an hour on Kamagong Street, just a few meters away from the Inquirer building on Chino Roces Avenue. Bay said Adlawan was so embarrassed, she asked him to escort her into the building.

Celebrated filmmaker Raya Zarcola was among the lucky few spared from the horrific jams. He had flown to Manila a day before the event and stayed at a friend's house nearby. Ramon was invited with director Peque Aguiling, Cinemanila International Film Festival founder.



MTRCB chair Grace Poe-Llamanzares and FDCP chair Briccio Santos

Special screening

The program proper—citing six indie pioneers and 10 filmmakers who made giant strides and won awards here and abroad in the past year—began at 6:30 p.m., just a half an hour late.

Singer-composer Noel Cabangon performed "Tanging Ikaw," the theme of Mike de Leon's "Sister Stella L.," drawing Villar Bonifacio. He later went back on stage to sing "Ang Bukas Nga Pag-asa," from Bolas

INDIE-FATIGABLE / H5





ANITA Linda



FIDES Cuyugan-Asensio



RAYMOND Red



ROXLEE



PEQUE Aguiling